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BEST-SELLERS

HARDCOVER FICTION



- 1. Dreams of Joy.** Lisa See. Random House, \$26. Weeks on List: 1
- 2. Dead Reckoning.** Charlaine Harris. Ace, \$27.95. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 5
- 3. 10th Anniversary.** James Patterson & Maxine Paetro. Little, Brown, \$27.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 5
- 4. Buried Prey.** John Sandford. Putnam,

\$27.95. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 4

5. The Jefferson Key. Steve Berry. Ballantine, \$26. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 3

6. The Sixth Man. David Baldacci. Grand Central, \$27.99. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 7

7. The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest. Stieg Larsson. Knopf, \$27.95. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 54

8. Kiss of Snow. Nalini Singh. Berkley, \$25.95. Weeks on List: 1

9. The Land of Painted Caves. Jean M. Auel. Crown, \$30. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 10

10. Trader of Secrets. Steve Martini. Morrow, \$26.99. Weeks on List: 1

11. Star Wars: Conviction. Aaron Allston. Del Rey/LucasBooks, \$27. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 2

12. The Final Storm. Jeff Shaara. Ballantine, \$28. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 3

13. Caleb's Crossing. Geraldine Brooks. Viking, \$26.95. Last Week: 13; Weeks on List: 5

14. The Snowman. Jo Nesbø. Knopf, \$25.95. Last Week: 11; Weeks on List: 4

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. The Greater Journey. David McCullough. Simon & Schuster, \$37.50. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 2

2. In the Garden of Beasts. Erik Larson. Crown, \$26. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 4

3. The Dukan Diet. Dr. Pierre Dukan. Crown, \$26. Last Week: 6; Weeks on List: 7

4. Unbroken. Laura Hillenbrand. Random House, \$27. Last Week: 12; Weeks on List: 29

5. The 17 Day Diet. Dr. Mike Moreno. Free Press, \$25. Last Week: 5; Weeks on List: 12

6. Bossypants. Tina Fey. LB/Reagan Arthur, \$26.99. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 9

7. Through My Eyes. Tim Tebow with Nathan Whitaker. HarperCollins, \$26.99. Weeks on List: 1

8. Those Guys Have All the Fun. James Andrew Miller & Tom Shales. Little, Brown, \$27.99. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2

9. TouchPoints. Douglas Conant & Mette Norgaard. Jossey-Bass, \$26.95. Last Week: 10; Weeks on List: 2

10. Lies That Chelsea Handler Told Me. Chelsea's Family, Friends & Other Victims. Grand Central, \$24.99. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 4

11. Does the Noise in My Head Bother You? Steven Tyler with David Dalton. Ecco, \$30. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 5

12. Seal Team Six. Howard E. Wasdin & Stephen Templin. St. Martin's, \$26.99. Last Week: 11; Weeks on List: 4

13. The Carb Lovers Diet. Ellen Kunes & Frances Largeman-Roth. Oxmoor, \$24.95. Weeks on List: 5

14. Transcendence. Norman E. Rosenthal, M.D. Tarcher, \$25.95. Weeks on List: 1

PAPERBACKS



1. Just Like Heaven. Julia Quinn. Avon, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

2. Creed's Honor. Linda Lael Miller. HQN, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

3. Game of Thrones. George R.R. Martin. Bantam, \$8.99. Last Week: 2; Weeks on List: 11

4. The Reluctant Vampire. Lynsay Sands. Avon, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

5. Beach Lane. Sherryl Woods. Mira, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

6. Magic Slays. Ilona Andrews. Ace, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

7. Frankenstein: The Dead Town. Dean Koontz. Bantam, \$9.99. Last Week: 1; Weeks on List: 2

8. Foreign Influence. Brad Thor. Pocket, \$9.99. Last Week: 3; Weeks on List: 2

9. A Clash of Kings. George R.R. Martin. Bantam, \$8.99. Last Week: 8; Weeks on List: 8

10. Worst Case. James Patterson & Michael Ledwidge. Vision, \$9.99. Weeks on List: 1

11. Trace of Fever. Lori Foster. HQN, \$7.99. Weeks on List: 1

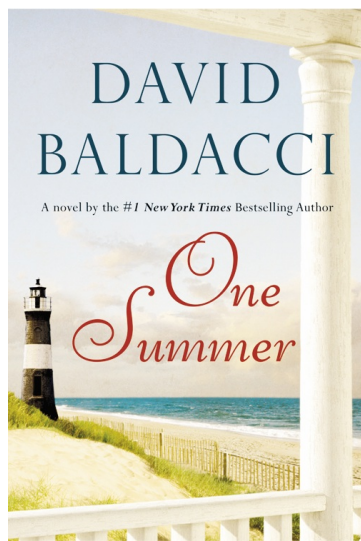
12. Water for Elephants. Sara Gruen. Algonquin, \$7.99. Last Week: 4; Weeks on List: 14

13. A Storm of Swords. George R.R. Martin. Bantam, \$8.99. Last Week: 9; Weeks on List: 8

14. The Search. Nora Roberts. Jove, \$7.99. Last Week: 7; Weeks on List: 8

15. The Spy. Clive Cussler & Justin Scott. Berkley, \$9.99. Weeks on List: 1

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BALDACCITAKES NEW DIRECTION

WAR VET STRUGGLES TO RAISE CHILDREN

BY BEVERLY MEYER
THE FREE LANCE-STAR

IT'S JUST good business to capitalize on success with a beach-based story set in South Carolina.

In "One Summer," David Baldacci dips his toe—and pen—into a new tide pool of female readership, hoping to push his best-selling franchise of sharp-edged thrillers in a new direction.

This new effort revolves around the twist of fate that turns 35-year-old Jack Armstrong's life—and death—upside down.

Jack, a veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, is in Cleveland in hospice care with a fatal disease in the snowy days before Christmas. Unable to breathe without an oxygen converter going at full blast, he struggles to make each remaining moment with his three children and his beloved wife, Lizzie, count.

On Christmas Eve, while trying to maintain some basic holiday activities for the kids, Lizzie realizes she has forgotten to refill Jack's intravenous painkillers at the pharmacy. Desperate to prevent Jack from suffering on Christmas Day, she rushes out into the icy night. An hour later, she is dead—killed instantly by a snow plow after she runs a red light in her haste to help her husband and soul mate.

So begins a remarkable—and unabashedly improbable—chain of events.

Jack, sent to a nursing home for his last few days, has lost his children to relatives on the West Coast. Broken-hearted over the loss of Lizzie and the finality of goodbyes he had to endure with Mikki, 15, Cory, 12, and Jackie, 2, he prepares for the inevitable.

But the inevitable does not arrive: Jack finds he has begun to breathe again on his own, sit up without assistance, even take steps for the first time in months.

He is, in fact, defying medical reality—he is recovering.

Baldacci plucks the reader's heartstrings all along the way in these events that serve as prologue to "One Summer." He unapologetically taps into Everyman's reactions to losing a beloved wife, facing death and demons both present and past, and building new relationships with lost children.

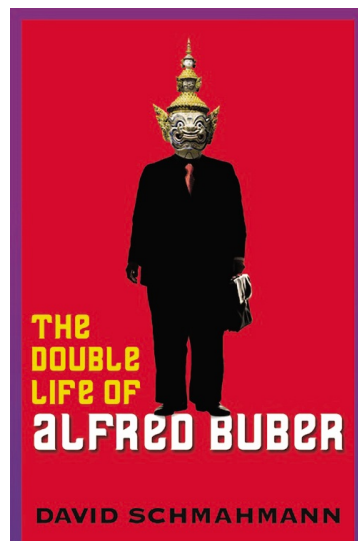
And he knows what will appeal to his target audience: a rambling old house on the South Carolina seacoast, a lighthouse with a past, attractive and sensitive people, exciting drama and universal themes. Will Jack recover emotionally as well as physically, and what will it take to make this group a real family again?

Published just in time for Father's Day, "One Summer" is sure to raise David Baldacci onto the crest of a new wave of success.

Beverly Meyer is a copy editor with The Free Lance-Star.

ONE SUMMER

By David Baldacci
(Grand Central, \$25, 331 pp.)



IMMIGRANT STRUGGLES TO FIT IN

ALFRED BUBER IS A MEMORABLE CHARACTER

BY DREW GALLAGHER
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

THE PUBLISHERS of David Schmahmann's new novel, "The Double Life of Alfred Buber," have really done him a bit of a disservice with the jacket blurbs for the novel.

They quote author Arthur Golden as saying Alfred Buber shares some characteristics with Nabokov's Humbert Humbert. I'm certain it is flattering to Schmahmann on some level, but to offer a comparison to "Lolita," often said to be the greatest novel ever written in English, is daunting for any novel.

So let's get the Nabokov and T.S. Eliot comparisons out of the way and take "The Double Life of Alfred Buber" on its own merits: It's a very good book. Schmahmann has created a very memorable figure in Alfred Buber.

Buber's family sends him to America from his native Rhodesia without so much as a visa. The teenage Buber eventually gains entrance to the country and finds a small room with his uncle Nigel. Buber becomes a fastidious student in America and eventually becomes an attorney living in Boston. He has, against exceptionally long odds, made himself into a well-respected man, but we know things are not quite as they seem.

Buber is lonely. He has all the trappings of success, with the big house and the new Mercedes, but he has never established his social footing and is viewed by most as a competent student or attorney who is rather strange.

One day at the office he overhears one of the partners talking of a land where the women literally kneel at your feet and perform outrageous acts for a mere pittance. Buber, under the pretense of going to Paris on vacation, travels to Bangkok and falls, he thinks, in love.

Bringing an Asian prostitute back to Boston, though, involves many complications, including the purchasing of the girl from her father.

"I sit on the crooked teak platform and I cannot be sitting here, cannot; it is impossible that I have brought about this ridiculous collision of lives and images and expectations, this juxtaposition so immense that it cannot be happening even as I steal glances at the young woman whom I have placed at the center of this hubbub, the soft and perfect product of these caving peasants."

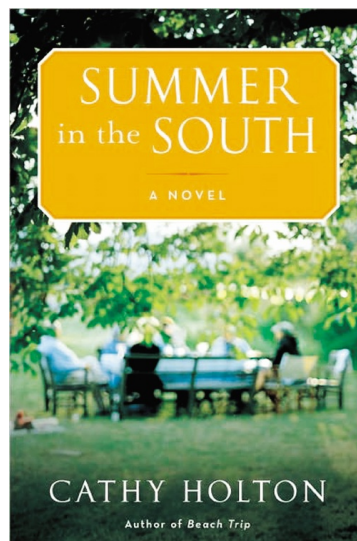
There is a pathos in Alfred Buber that the reader finds compelling. And up until the very end, Schmahmann gives hope that he might find love—that in spite of all the obstacles and a life of emptiness, Buber can be fulfilled.

Here, at last, one can look to Nabokov and Eliot and get a glimpse of the inevitable end.

Drew Gallagher is a freelance reviewer in Spotsylvania.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF ALFRED BUBER

By David Schmahmann
(Permanent Press, \$20, 198 pp.)



A REVEALING TENNESSEE SUMMERTIME

FAMILY SECRETS DISRUPT LIVES IN SLEEPY TOWN

BY LUCIA ANDERSON
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

"THAT'S WHAT families do. We keep each other's secrets."

Hearing that statement, Ava Dabrowski begins to realize that maybe she doesn't know her old college buddy so well after all. And her ideas of life in a sleepy little Tennessee town may be purely imaginary.

Ava is the heroine of Cathy Holton's "Summer in the South," an intriguing tale of one woman's search for understanding of both her own past and that of these Southerners whom she is visiting.

Ava and Will Fraser met in college. She wants to be a writer, and Will has invited her to stay with his aunts in his hometown while she works on her novel. She has cut her ties to her old life—her mother has just died, and she has quit her job and broken up with her lover. Why not spend some time in Tennessee?

But she soon becomes aware of the currents flowing beneath the surface—references to events in the past that don't jibe with the superficial smoothness of present-day life in Woodburn. Then she meets Will's cousin Jake, and things get even murkier.

On top of all that, Ava begins to discover that what she knows about her own background may have little basis in truth.

Determined to get to the bottom of the mysteries in Woodburn, Ava begins to write about the characters she has discovered. The deeper she goes, the tighter the story's hold on her.

Holton has written an engrossing tale, one that keeps the pages turning.

Lucia Anderson is a freelance writer in Woodbridge.

SUMMER IN THE SOUTH

By Cathy Holton (Ballantine Books, \$25, 352 pp.)



AS CHILLING AS OSLO IN NOVEMBER

THIS 'SNOWMAN' NOT HAPPY, JOLLY TYPE

BY ELIZABETH RABIN
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

THE premise is simple: On the first snowfall of each year in Oslo, a mother disappears from her home. Outside, a snowman appears as a calling card. But from whom?

These opening scenes of Jo Nesbø's mystery "The Snowman" are taut and effective, enticing readers to further explore this latest entry in Scandinavian crime fiction.

With Stieg Larsson's Millennium series reaching critical PR mass and Henning Mankell retiring his sleuth Kurt Wallander, Nesbø looks to be the next perennial favorite with his dogged-but-determined detective Harry Hole.

Hole, who has trained with the FBI in Chicago and tracked serial killers in Australia, has returned to Norway. But he is home in the loosest sense of the word. His relationship with his longtime girlfriend has ended, the dark nights of the brutal Norwegian winter are lengthening, even his apartment is being dismantled as the handyman looks for mold.

As the disappearances of mothers in Oslo continue and new evidence points to a serial killer loose in the city, Hole must rally himself to catch the criminal his department has dubbed "The Snowman." Like the Scandinavian snows, Nesbø's killer is plain yet treacherous, sending Hole, as well as readers, skidding through the twists of the thrilling plot.

Elizabeth Rabin is a freelance writer in Spotsylvania.

THE SNOWMAN

By Jo Nesbø
(Knopf, \$25.95, 400 pp.)

FAMILY BARELY FUNCTIONS

MILITARY NOVEL CRACKLES WITH SUSPENSE

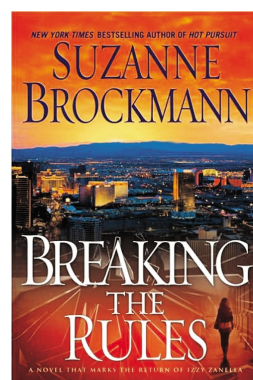
BY KATHY HABEL
FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

SUZANNE Brockmann combines a love story with suspense to keep readers on the edge of their seats in "Breaking the Rules." She also draws a picture of a family so dysfunctional that it will have you asking how that could possibly happen.

Danny, Eden and Ben are siblings who have been raised by a sometimes absent mother who parades a series of boyfriends and stepfathers through their lives. Each tries to escape as soon as he can.

Danny is a Navy SEAL who is opinionated and close-minded. Eden chooses to be a stripper to make quick money and help her younger brother, Ben. Ben is caught between a sadistic stepfather and his own demons.

Eden is married to Izzy in a rather rocky relationship. Danny and Jennilyn are in



love, but Danny has a difficult time accepting the love of his long-suffering but understanding girlfriend. Throw in the troubled Nee-sha, a teenager who has run away from a Las Vegas brothel, and you have the turbulent setting for this suspenseful novel.

Kathy Habel is a freelance reviewer in Spotsylvania.

BREAKING THE RULES

By Suzanne Brockmann
(Publisher, \$Price, pages)